



Minutes of the Town Action Group – TAG Team
(Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at the Three Lakes Community Center, Three Lakes, Wisconsin)

Attendance: Members present Randy Bacon, Diane Hapka, Lance Hillman, Ken Klein, Mike Kwaterski, Mike Miller, John Olkowski, Bruce Renquist, Norris Ross, Jerry Schiedt, Don Sidlowski, Tara Stephens, Pat Volk, Tom Wallschlaeger

Guests: All meetings are open to the public. Town Supervisors Ed Cottingham and Fritz Schwartz were in attendance.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Temporary Organizational Chairman Don Sidlowski.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes of Last Meeting: Motion: Miller. Second: Olkowski. Approved. Agenda attached for reference.

Announcements: Chairman Don noted that the Town Board is actively soliciting help from any citizen with financial or financing experience to help with the upcoming budget cycle. The Town is looking for creative ways to balance the budget and possible funding sources. At the last special meeting of the Town Board, Chairman Don promised to bring this matter before the TAG Team and ask if there was any TAG member that was qualified and willing, or if a TAG member knew of any such candidates. They should offer their services to the Town Board.

Community Input Forum Review: Chairman Don presented the results of the forum on a big screen projector accompanied by handout notes. Since the forum on August 27, Don had met with TAG members Diane Hapka, Mike Kwaterski and Mike Miller and this group had transformed the data that was gathered into information that could be studied by TAG. A copy of the final, top-level tabulated results is attached to these minutes. Don reviewed the process with the team by which the raw data was sorted and categorized multiple times in order to arrive at the final tabulated results. He noted that the interesting thing about tabulating results is that the data never lies but can often reveal surprising things. This was somewhat the case here in terms of how things shook out. When all the common topics were grouped into categories, they ranked top to bottom in the following order: Economic Development, Technology, School, Recreation/Arts/Cultural Resources, Housing, Land Planning, Natural & Agricultural Resources, and General Concerns. After considerable and often lively discussion, the group decided that this compiled list resulting from the forum would represent the initial categories that TAG would pursue as it started its work. Upon inspection, the group saw that these categories aligned reasonably well with the nine major elements contained in the state's comprehensive planning outline. The only major element not included was transportation, roads, utilities and community facilities. It was decided that TAG need not include this category at this time. The main reason cited was the fact that the Town already had a Zoning Committee charged with this same area and they already perform an excellent service to the Town. If TAG later decides this category needs to be revisited it can always be added back in.

Chairman Don said that these categories would now form a working list of sub-committees. He noted that some time in the month of October, the group would have to elect both the leadership team and start to appoint sub-committee chairs and members. He reminded the members that if they had not already made a personal vision statement for themselves, which espoused the reasons they wanted to be a part of the TAG Team, that they needed to complete this by the next meeting. This was critical so that member interest could be correctly matched to upcoming committee assignments.

It was noted that TAG still lacks input from the age group of 16-40 in general, which could be broken into two sub-ranges of 16-25 and 25-40. It was decided that TAG should work with the Three Lakes Schools in order to develop a way that both students and their parents could have their input taken and gotten to TAG. Pat Volk noted that years ago a student survey had been conducted. Thanks to the fact that there are several TAG members also on the school board of education, it was decided that TAG should work through the board to come up with a plan to accomplish the goal of getting data input from this critical age range.

Start of Work on a Vision Statement: Armed with the list of categories, the group revisited the compiled list of strengths (“why we live in Three Lakes”) as the starting point for developing the main elements that needed to be included in a vision statement for the Town. The topic sheets created at the forum were once again put up on the wall. The broad general themes that came up over and over again were a) the quality of life embodied by the unique entity that is The Northwoods, and b) that the vision statement must be idealistic and not materialistic. In similar fashion to what was done by the citizens who participated in the forum, the group then “voted” on the list of strengths to come up with the following list of topics that needed to be woven into the vision statement as major themes: best kept secret, strong community support and volunteers, every generation valued, library, live your vacation, service oriented community, know and care for one another, appreciation of natural resources, heritage is strong, diversity of people and friendships, no traffic, school system, friendly people, family oriented, and recreational opportunities.

Between now and the next meeting, several members offered to assist with starting a draft vision statement based upon these elements. Don promised to get preliminary minutes of this meeting containing all of the selected themes out to those members that volunteered to help with the vision statement draft by the weekend so that this task could be started.

Date and Time for Next Meetings: The next meeting date is Monday September 24 at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment: There being no other business to come before or be conducted by the group, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.